

March 29, 2017

Re: HB7260 an act regulating the use of drones.

Good afternoon Senators Kissel, Doyle and distinguished members of the Judiciary. My name is Barbara Fair and I am a West Haven voter and a concerned citizen and I am writing in strong support of this piece of legislation that serves to regulate the use of drones in our state. At the same time I wish to voice my dissent for any individual or organization, including law enforcement to be allowed drones for the purpose of dispersing tear gas or any other agent that can potentially harm citizenry. I do so because I am witnessing how militarized our police forces are becoming and how much of our personal privacy is becoming eradicated under the color of law. I'm beginning to question just how far we are willing to go when we continue to grant additional latitude to law enforcement to intrude in our lives without probable cause.

In these days of government protest we have witnessed police terror that is becoming more and more normative. I see this as a serious threat to public safety and to the wellbeing of our citizens who are simply exercising their constitutional right to peacefully protest what we see as our government heading in the wrong direction. We are, in effect, allowing our government to terrorize us at will with no accountability for the consequences of their actions. I want to make it quite clear this is NOT being done in my name. When I hear that we now have a bill to regulate something that should not even be allowed in civil society it has a chilling effect on me. I have to question who we are and who are we becoming.

Drones were introduced into our society as weapons of war. It allowed our nation to drop terror from the sky using unmanned technology. This is terrifying. We have seen numerous times these weapons miss an intended target and cause the loss of civilian lives. I'm certain it is occurring much more than we are shown. This type of technology is frightening. The mere thought that we could be involved in peaceful protest and an individual in control of these weapons decides to intimidate us with tear gas or some other agent from the sky.

Instead of reducing the terror and violence of our nation it seems we are now escalating it to the point that it will be used against our own citizens. I am horrified of this possibility.

I recognize this bill's primary intent is to regulate use of drones by private citizens but I think we need to take a broader look at how much we are making the invasion of privacy and the incidence of police terror a norm. I have seen far too many times legislation created under the guise of public safety end with "unintended consequences" which proved harmful in its enforcement. Sometimes when crises arise we try to resolve the problem without thinking through all that can go wrong. Legislation must not be quick reactionary responses to social problems. In all that we do we must preserve our liberties and value all lives.

Thank you for the opportunity to give voice to this important matter.